

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAN JO 04312 150101Z

ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8767

WHITE HOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL SAN JOSE 4312

EXDIS

ARA FOR TODMAN ONLY, S/AB FOR BUNKER/POPPER ONLY, NSC FOR PASTOR
ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR PN CS

SUBJ: PANAMA CANAL TREATY

REF: STATE 20;477

1. IN SPECIALLY-CALLED SEPTEMBER 12 PRESS CONFERENCE TO REPORT ON HIS TRIP, PRESIDENT ODUBER, REFERRING TO PANAMA CANAL TREATY AND BILATERAL MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER, STATED THAT HE IS "SURE THAT AFTER SEPTEMBER 7 AND 8, THE WINDS OF HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY, AND LIBERTY ARE GOING TO BE FELT STRONGLY IN THE HEMISPHERE". ODUBER STATED ALSO THAT HE FEELS THAT "WASHINGTON NOW TAKES INTO CONSIDERATION WHAT COSTA RICA DOES AND RECOMMENDS". ODUBER QUOTED PRESIDENT CARTER: "COSTA RICA IS VERY CLOSE TO USNOW AND IS THE COUNTRY THAT HAS TAKEN LEADERSHIP IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS STRUGGLE. YOU WILL NOT HAVE PROBLEMS WITH US IN YOUR EFFORTS TO IMPROVE MARKETS AND PRICES FOR YOUR PRODUCTS".

2. IN COMMENTS MADE PRIVATELY IT WAS CLEAR THAT ODUBER, FACIO AND SILVA WERE ABSOLUTELY GLOWING ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF THE BILATERAL.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAN JO 04312 150101Z

WHILE PLEASED THAT THEY HAD BEEN GIVEN A FAVORABLE RESPONSE ON THE PATROL BOATS AND A MORE SUITABLE TIMETABLE FOR THE YOUTH SYMPHONY PERFORMANCE, IT WAS CLEAR FROM ODUBER'S COMMENTS THAT IT WAS THE SPIRIT OF THE MEETING THAT CAPPED SO REWARDING A WEEK FOR THEM. ODUBER STATED THAT HE WAS EXTREMELY WELL IMPRESSED WITH PRESIDENT CARTER'S DETAILED KNOWLEDGE OF THE MATTERS DISCUSSED AND HIS DIRECT AND FRANK APPROACH. HE WAS PLEASED TO HAVE HAD THE

TIME TO MAKE HIS PITCH ON COSTA RICA'S DESIRE FOR LIMITED SPECIAL FAVOR ON TRADE MATTERS, MAINLY MEAT AND SUGAR, AND TO REITERATE HIS INTEREST ON ASSISTING ON THE CANAL ISSUE, HAITI AND THE CARIBBEAN GENERALLY AND ON HUMAN RIGHTS. JUDGING FROM HIS IMMEDIATE POST-BILATERAL COMMENTS ENROUTE TO AND AT NATIONAL AIRPORT, HOW-

EVER, IT WAS EVIDENT THAT HE WAS MOST IMPRESSED WITH THE FACT THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE US, THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE PRESIDENT'S ASSISTANT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS HAD HEARD HIM OUT, WITH INTEREST. OBVIOUSLY, ON THE HEELS OF THE VISITS OF MRS CARTER AND AMBASSADOR YOUNG, HE WAS FEELING "CONSULTED" AND USEFUL.

3. ALSO, FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO SOUGHT OUT EMBASSY OFFICER AT SEPT 14 SOCIAL EVENT TO STATE THAT HE GOCR DELEGATION'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON, AND PARTICULARLY THE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER, WAS "ABSOLUTELY PERFECT". FACIO REPEATED, AS DID ODUBER, THAT HE WAS ENORMOUSLY IMPRESSED NOT ONLY BY PRESIDENT'S KNOWLEDGE OF COSTA RICA AND ISSUES IN THE US-COSTA RICAN RELATIONSHIPS, BUT BY PRESIDENT'S CANDOR AND RESPONSIVENESS. COMING AFTER FOUR-DAY PERIOD IN WHICH THE GOCR DELEGATION HAD BEEN EXTREMELY WELL-TREATED BY TOP LEVEL OFFICIALS OF ADMINISTRATION AS WELL AS BY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, FACIO SAID, THE MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT WAS THE BEST POSSIBLE ENDING TO A VERY PRODUCTIVE AND ENCOURAGING TRIP. FACIO ALSO NOTED THAT HE PERSONALLY WAS HIGHLY FLATTERED BY THE ATTENTION HE HAD RECEIVED FROM SECRETARY VANCE.

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PAGE 03 SAN JO 04312 150101Z

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